



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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www.idwr.state.id.us/planpol/watplan/planning/iwrb_home.htm

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IWRB Announces Public Comment Period **For Revised South Fork Clearwater Plan**

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The Idaho Water Resource Board has opened a two-month public review of its revised Comprehensive State Water Plan Part B for the South Fork Clearwater Basin, Board officials announced today.

A major change in the revised version of the original plan is that streams which were to be identified for “natural” designation outside of Wilderness areas will be changed to “recreation” designation. Also, the Board will consider changing the designation of streams that are in roadless areas to “natural” if the areas become official Wilderness in the future.

The public review process includes a 60-day comment period, an information meeting and a public hearing, as follows:

- The public review period commences on Friday, February 20 and will remain open through the close of business on Friday, April 23, 2004.
- A brief information meeting to present plan revisions and a public hearing are scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2004 in Grangeville at 7:p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center on County Road (Truck Route) between Idaho and North State Streets.

The revised plan describes and evaluates the water resources and related economic, cultural and natural resources of the basin, and their current uses. It also contains the Board’s recommendations for managing the water resources in the basin, and identifies stream reaches proposed for inclusion in the state's protected rivers system. The plan further identifies stream reaches for which the Board will consider applying for minimum stream flows.

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The plan is available for review on the Department of Water Resources home page at:
www.idwr.state.id.us/waterboard/planning/SF%20Clearwater/draftplan.htm.

Electronic copies on CD and paper copies may also be requested by contacting Thomas Grant at tgrant@idwr.state.id.us or by calling Grant at (208) 327-7900.

The public meeting and hearing will be conducted in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in or understand the presented material, please let Thomas Grant know in advance so arrangements can be made. The telephone number is (208) 327-7900.